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Yeovil Rural District Council

# ANNUAL REPORT

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

## 31st December, 1943

Whitby, Printer, Yeovil

# PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

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*Medical Officer of Health :*

D. V. HAGUE, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

*Secretary to Medical Officer of Health :*

(Mrs.) V. M. BROOKS.

*Senior Sanitary Inspector :*

CHARLES A. WILSON, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

*Additional Sanitary Inspector :*

ELFED P. JONES, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I.

*Assistant Housing Inspector :*

THOMAS H. LORD.

*Sanitary Inspector's Clerk :*

(Mrs.) B. M. COLLINS.

# TO THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS OF YEOVIL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for 1943.

Overcrowding is still in evidence and is bound to continue until an appreciable number of new houses can be built.

Shortage of water is apparent in most parts of the district. A comprehensive scheme to supply the whole district from the smallest possible number of reliable sources is highly desirable. One such scheme has been submitted by your Sanitary Inspector.

Sewage disposal works are also largely inadequate and unsatisfactory, and constitute another major post war problem, second only to housing and water supplies.

The influenza epidemic which occurred in the late Autumn was fortunately of a mild type though a few cases of rapidly fatal Influenzal Pneumonia were reported. Two cases of Diphtheria only were notified. 407 cases of Measles were notified and 27 cases of Scarlet Fever. No deaths are recorded from Infectious diseases apart from Tuberculosis and Pneumonia.

Sporadic cases of Scabies and verminous conditions have been dealt with. There is no change in the condition of Schools.

Yours faithfully,

D. V. HAGUE.

## SECTION A.

## EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

| | Total. | M. | F. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Live Births—Legitimate ... ... | 317 | 170 | 147 |
| Illegitimate ... ... | 13 | 6 | 7 |
| Still Births—Legitimate ... ... | 8 | 5 | 3 |
| Illegitimate ... ... | — | — | — |
| Deaths ... ... ... ... ... | 190 | 91 | 99 |

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population ...16.8
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births ...23.6
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated average population ... 9.7

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## DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

| | Births. | Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births |
|---|---|---|
| No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis .. ... | Nil | Nil |
| No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes... | Nil | Nil |

## DEATH RATE OF INFANTS under One Year of Age.

| | |
|---|---|
| All Infants per 1,000 Live Births ... ... ... ... | 30 |
| Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births ... | 31 |
| Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births ... | Nil |
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ... ... ... ... | 33 |
| ,, ,, Measles (all ages) ... ... ... ... | Nil |
| ,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ... ... | Nil |
| ,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ... ... ... | Nil |

## CAUSES OF DEATH.

| | M. | F. |
|---|---|---|
| Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ... ... | 1 | 1 |
| Other Tuberculosis ... ... ... ... | 1 | 1 |
| Influenza ... ... ... ... ... | 3 | 3 |
| Cancer of Tongue and Gullet ... ... ... | 1 | 2 |
| Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ... | 5 | 3 |
| Cancer of Breast ... ... ... ... | — | 6 |
| Cancer of all other sites ... ... ... | 6 | 10 |
| Diabetes ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | 2 |
| Inter-Cranial Vascular Lesions ... ... | 10 | 11 |
| Heart Disease ... ... ... ... | 20 | 17 |
| Other Circulatory Disease ... ... ... | 3 | 2 |
| Bronchitis ... ... ... ... ... | 7 | 5 |
| Pneumonia ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | 3 |

| Causes of Death—continued. | M. | F. |
|---|---|---|
| Other Respiratory Diseases ... ... ... | — | 3 |
| Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ... ... | 2 | 2 |
| Appendicitis ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | — |
| Other Digestive Diseases ... ... ... | 2 | 2 |
| Nephritis ... ... ... ... ... | 4 | 4 |
| Maternal Causes ... ... ... ... | — | 1 |
| Premature Birth ... ... ... ... | 2 | 1 |
| Congenital Malformation, Birth Injuries, Infant Dis. | 2 | — |
| Suicide ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | — |
| Other Violent Causes ... ... ... ... | 2 | 3 |
| Road Traffic Accidents ... ... ... | 2 | — |
| All other Causes ... ... ... ... | 12 | 17 |
| Total ... | 91 | 99 |

## SECTION B.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1. Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspectors } No Change.

2. (a) LABORATORY FACILITIES
   (b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES
   (c) CLINICS & TREATMENT CENTRES } No Change.

   (d) **NURSING IN THE HOME.**

   Two Health Visitors and Thirteen District Nurses attend to the Midwifery, Nursing, and Infant Welfare work in the District. The Nurses are employed by the local District Nursing Associations and supervised by the County Public Health authority.

   (e) HOSPITALS—No Change.

   (f) SICK BAYS and HOSTELS.

   **Yarn Barton Sick Bay.**

   Dr. Brimblecombe continues his good work as Medical Officer.

   Miss Bowerman resigned her appointment as Matron on 16/9/43 for active service in China. She gave the Sick Bay three years of efficient and conscientious work of the highest character. Miss Wray has taken her place as Matron, and the good work of the Sick Bay continues.

The general high standard of administration of Sick Bay and Hostels is due in no small measure to Miss Osborne's constant supervision.

114 cases were admitted to the Sick Bay in 1943 as follows :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Scabies ... ... ... ... | 44 |
| Impetigo and Septic conditions ... | 25 |
| Tonsillitis, Bronchitis, etc. ... | 15 |
| General Debility and Malnutrition... | 7 |
| Convalescent after operations ... | 10 |
| Other complaints ... ... ... | 13 |
| Total ... | 114 |

83 of the above were from Yeovil Rural District.

| | |
|---|---|
| Somerset children ... ... | 10 |
| Somerset adults ... ... ... | 7 |
| Evacuees ... ... ... | 66 |
| Total ... | 83 |

**Wisteria Hostel** for girls of 8—14 years.

| | |
|---|---|
| Maximum accommodation... ... | 20 |
| Average number in residence ... | 18 |
| Fresh admissions during the year ... | 17 |

**The Nest Hostel** for boys of 8—14 years.

| | |
|---|---|
| Maximum accommodation... ... | 14 |
| Average number in residence ... | 13 |
| Fresh admissions during the year ... | 10 |

**The Close Hostel** for children under 8 years.

| | |
|---|---|
| Maximum accommodation... ... | 14 |
| Average number in residence ... | 12 |
| Fresh admissions during the year ... | 10 |

## WAR NURSERIES.

**Over Stratton Residential Nursery** for children under 5 years.

| | |
|---|---|
| Maximum accommodation... ... | 13 |
| Average number in residence ... | 13 |

An outbreak of infectious jaundice occurred in the Nursery in June, involving eight children and three staff. All recovered.

**Martock Residential Nursery.**

The Day Nursery at Martock was reopened as a Residential Nursery for children under five years in June 1943. Accommodation is available for twelve. There were seventeen admissions and the Nursery was full for the last three months of the year.

## SECTION C.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER SUPPLIES—

   No change.

2. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE—No Change.

   Rivers and Streams—No action taken.

3. PUBLIC CLEANSING.—Salvage work is undertaken in all Parishes.

### SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

| | |
|---|---|
| Inspections of Sewerage and Drainage ... ... | 115 |
| Inspections for Nuisances ... ... ... | 146 |
| Informal Notices served ... ... ... | 4 |
| Drainage Tests and Inspections... ... ... | 140 |
| Rooms Disinfected ... ... ... ... | 37 |
| Dairies and Cowsheds Inspections ... ... | 359 |
| Inspection of Water Supplies ... ... ... | 214 |
| Slaughterhouse Inspections ... ... ... | 15 |

Shops and Offices.—It was not found necessary to take any special action under the provision of the Shops Act, 1934.

Smoke Abatement.—It was not found necessary to take any action.

4. SCHOOLS.—There has been no radical improvement in the unsatisfactory conditions of some of the schools in the District.

## SECTION D.

### HOUSING INSPECTIONS.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 (a) | Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under P.H., or Housing Acts) ... | 349 |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose ... | 420 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2 (a) | Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under H. Con. Reg. 1925 and 1932 ... ... ... | Nil |
| (b) | Number of inspections made for the purpose ... | Nil |
| (c) | Number of houses in which no action was found necessary ... ... ... ... ... | Nil |
| 3 | Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... ... ... ... | Nil |
| 4 | Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ... ... ... ... | 10 |

HOUSING ACTION.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (a) | Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... ... ... | 8 |
| (b) | Number of houses demolished voluntarily or in consequence of informal action ... ... | Nil |

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... ... | 2 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :— | |
| | (a) By owners ... ... ... ... | Nil |
| | (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... | Nil |

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Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 2 |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice :— | |
| | (a) By Owners ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| | (b) By Local Authority... ... ... ... | Nil |

## Proceedings under Sections 11, 13 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (1) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... ... | Nil |
| (2) | Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... ... ... | Nil |
| (3) | Number of dwelling houses in respect of which undertaking was given not to let ... ... ... | Nil |

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## Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| (1) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... ... ... ... ... | Nil |
| (2) | Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been made fit ... ... ... ... ... | Nil |

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## HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | (i) | Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... ... ... | 35 estimated |
| | (ii) | Number of families dwelling therein ... | 75 ,, |
| | (iii) | Number of persons dwelling therein ... | 240 ,, |
| (b) | | Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... | 8 |
| (c) | (i) | Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ... | Nil |
| | (ii) | Number of persons concerned in such cases ... ... ... ... | Nil |
| (d) | | Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ... ... | Nil |

It was only possible to deal with a few of the very serious cases of overcrowding owing to the shortage of housing accommodation.

# SECTION E.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### MILK SUPPLY.

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Producers on the Register ... ... | 419 |
| Number of Distributors on the Register divided as follows : | |
| (i) Distributors only ... ... ... | 9 |
| (ii) Distributors who are also Producers ... | 125 |
| Cowsheds and Dairies inspected... ... ... | 359 |

### SAMPLES OF MILK TAKEN FOR EXAMINATION.

| | |
|---|---|
| Tuberculin Tested ... ... ... ... | 91 |
| Reported unsatisfactory ... ... ... | 18 |
| Accredited ... ... ... ... ... | 189 |
| Reported unsatisfactory ... ... ... | 72 |
| Pasteurised ... ... ... ... | 7 |
| For Tubercle Bacilli ... ... ... ... | 33 |
| Reported unsatisfactory ... ... ... | — |
| Total number of samples collected ... ... | 314 |

### MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Slaughterhouses Licensed ... ... | 15 |

### CARCASES INSPECTED.

| | |
|---|---|
| Cows ... ... ... ... ... ... | — |
| Calves ... ... ... ... ... ... | — |
| Sheep and Lambs ... ... ... ... | — |
| Pigs ... ... ... ... ... .. | — |

### TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.

Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned :

| | |
|---|---|
| Cows ... ... ... ... ... ... | — |
| Pigs ... ... ... ... ... ... | — |

Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis :

| | |
|---|---|
| Cows ... ... ... ... ... ... | — |
| Pigs ... ... ... ... ... ... | — |

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Bakehouses in the District ... ... | 20 |
| Number of Offensive Trades carried on in the District | 1 |

## CANNED FOODS.

A large quantity of Canned Foods was inspected during the year, and the following condemned :

| | |
|---|---|
| Milk ... ... ... | 4127 Tins |
| Meat ... ... ... | 237 ,, |
| Fish ... ... ... | 175 ,, |
| Fruit ... ... ... | 6 ,, |
| Vegetables and Soups ... | 981 ,, |

## WATER SUPPLY.

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Samples taken for Bacteriological Examination ... | 83 |
| Number of Samples reported satisfactory ... ... | 60 |
| Number of Samples reported not entirely satisfactory ... | 19 |
| Number of Samples reported unsatisfactory ... ... | 4 |

## ADULTERATION.

The Council are not a Local Authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

# SECTION F.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

No deaths from notifiable infectious diseases were recorded with the exception of Tuberculosis (3 deaths) and pneumonia (5 deaths). 3 of the pneumonia deaths were due to influenzal pneumonia. Influenza in several cases hastened deaths due to other causes. Tuberculosis mortality for the district has been low for the past two years.

Diphtheria has been practically non-existent. The following children have been immunised :—

| | |
|---|---|
| 2025 School Children ... ... | 98.1% |
| 1004 Children under School age... | 94.4% |

Children continue to be immunised regularly in small numbers.

163 patients were admitted to South Petherton Isolation Hospital during the year. 74 of them were from Yeovil Rural District.

| | |
|---|---|
| Civilians ... | 59 |
| Military ... | 3 |
| Evacuees ... | 12 |
| Total ... ... | 74 |

| Disease. | Total Cases Notified | Admitted to Hospital | Hospital Deaths | Total Deaths |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Diphtheria ... ... | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever ... ... | 27 | 26 | — | — |
| Tubercular Meningitis ... | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Whooping Cough... ... | 24 | — | — | — |
| Measles ... ... ... | 407 | 6 | — | — |
| Erysipelas... ... ... | 2 | 1 | — | — |
| Pneumonia ... ... | 15 | 3 | 1 | 5 |
| Puerperal Fever ... ... | 6 | 3 | — | — |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 3 | 3 | — | — |
| Dysentery ... ... ... | 2 | — | — | — |

The following cases of non-notifiable infectious diseases were admitted to South Petherton Hospital for special reasons, or owing to difficulty in early diagnosis.

| Disease. | Somerset Cases. | Others. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mumps ... ... ... | — | 2 | 2 |
| Tonsillitis ... ... ... | 9 | 1 | 10 |
| Chicken Pox ... ... ... | 1 | 7 | 8 |
| Healthy Mother ... ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Dermatitis ... ... ... | 3 | — | 3 |
| Bronchitis ... ... ... | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Avirulent Diphtheroid Infection ... | — | 2 | 2 |

## ANALYSIS OF THE TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.

| | Under 1 yr. | 1—2 yrs | 2—3 yrs. | 3—4 yrs. | 4—5 yrs. | 5—10 yrs. | 10—15 yrs. | 15—20 yrs. | 20—35 yrs. | 35—45 yrs. | 45—65 yrs. | Over 65. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Diphtheria .... .... | | | | | | | | 1 | | | | |
| Scarlet Fever .... .... | | 1 | 2 | | 1 | 15 | 5 | 1 | 2 | | | |
| Puerperal Pyrexia.... .... | | | | | | | | | 5 | 1 | | |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum .... | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Tubercular Meningitis .... | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pneumonia .... .... | | 1 | 1 | | | 2 | | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| Erysipelas .... .... .... | | | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | |
| Whooping Cough ... .... | 1 | 4 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 9 | 1 | | | | | |
| Measles .... .... .... | 6 | 12 | 32 | 32 | 43 | 216 | 39 | 13 | 12 | 2 | | |
| Dysentery .... .... .... | | | | | | | | | 1 | | 1 | |

## TUBERCULOSIS.

## NEW CASES AND MORTALITY.

| Age Periods. | New Cases. | | | | Deaths. | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0-1 ... ... | | | | | | | | |
| 1-5 ... .. | | | | | | | | |
| 5-15 ... ... | | 2 | 2 | 1 | | | | |
| 15-25 ... ... | 4 | 3 | | | 2 | 1 | | |
| 25-35 ... ... | 2 | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| 35-45 ... ... | 1 | | | | | | | |
| 45-55 ... ... | | 4 | | | | | | |
| 55-65 ... ... | | | | 1 | | | | |
| 65 and upwards ... | | | | | | | | |
| Total ... ... | 7 | 10 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 1 | | |

Total New Cases 22. Deaths 3.

# Yeovil Rural District Council.

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1943.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Yeovil Rural District Council.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my annual report for the year 1943. All the complaints received during the year were satisfactorily dealt with.

### HOUSING.

There were 4 new houses erected during the year.

Plans submitted for approval under the Byelaws totalled 20.

Town Planning. 14 Interim Development Permission Certificates were issued under the Town Planning Scheme.

### WATER SUPPLIES.

The lack of winter rainfall and the increased demand will have a serious effect on water supplies of the district during 1944, unless some additional source of supply can be obtained.

### SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

The maintenance of Sewage Disposal Works has not in some cases been satisfactory owing to the shortage of labour.

Labour for this type of work has been more or less unobtainable and the position is unsatisfactory.

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 15 Slaughterhouses on the register, and these have been kept clean and wholesome.

All slaughtering except Emergency Slaughtering, has been carried out outside the district under the Regional Slaughtering Scheme.

### BAKEHOUSES.

There are 20 Bakehouses in the district, all of which are kept in a satisfactory condition.

## COWSHEDS AND DAIRIES.

There are 60 Accredited Producers and 26 Tuberculin Tested Producers in the District.

## FACTORIES.

All are in a fairly satisfactory condition.

## REFUSE COLLECTION AND SALVAGE.

The scheme of Refuse and Salvage collection for the whole district is working satisfactorily. The amount of Salvage collected was the average for a Rural District.

The amount of waste materials collected during the year was as follows:

| | Amount Collected. | | | Value. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Tons. | Cwts. | | £ | s. |
| Waste Paper... | 134 | 4 | ... | 873 | 1 |
| Metals ... | 240 | 4 | ... | 502 | 2 |
| Textiles ... | 8 | 19 | ... | 166 | 8 |
| Bones ... | 13 | 19 | ... | 65 | 1 |
| Rubber ... | 7 | 2 | ... | 17 | 15 |
| Total ... | 404 | 8 | | £1624 | 7 |

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES A. WILSON,

*Senior Sanitary Inspector,*

*Inspector of Meat and other Foods,*

*Associate of the Royal Sanitary Institute.*